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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/604,526	07/29/2003	Arthur E. Onweller	1067.01001	1525

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EXAMINER

BASINGER, SHERMAN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3617

DATE MAILED: 07/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/604,526	ONWELLER, ARTHUR E.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sherman D. Basinger	3617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19-24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 July 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/29/03
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because the lines, numbers and letters are not uniformly thick and well defined. Figure 11 especially has areas where the drawing ink has been smeared. Corrected drawing sheets are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 7, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Raistakka.

Raistakka discloses a marine

mooring line

vermin shield 10 to prevent the

passage of vermin crawling along a marine mooring line A

from land to a pleasure craft, comprising:

(a) a disc 12 having a disc

axial axis perpendicular to a face

of said disc, the disc axial axis being positioned in a

central portion of said disc, said disc also includes an

aperture 23 through said

disc coincident to the disc axial

axis being positioned such that said aperture uses the

disc axial axis as a centerline, said aperture

is sized and

configured as a passage for the

marine mooring line,

said disc also includes a radial slot, pocket 18, through said disc co-incident to the

disc axial axis, said radial slot extending

from said aperture to a periphery of said disc, said slot

having a radial axis parallel
to said slot;
(b) a closure 13 sized
and adapted to insert into said slot in
a closure pivotal movement arc around pivot pin 22 and approximately parallel to
the disc axial
axis, said closure 13 is in
a closed state (figure 1) when
inserted into said slot and
is **substantially** flush with said
disc face, said closure also sized and adapted to manu-
ally extract from said slot in the closure pivotal move-
ment arc approximately parallel to the disc axial axis,
said closure 13 is in an open state (figure 3) when extracted from said
slot to allow the marine
mooring line to pass through
said slot from said
periphery to said aperture, said closure including a first
end substantially flush with said
disc periphery when said closure is in the closed state,
said closure also including an opposing second end 26
adapted to partially compress the mooring line against

said aperture when said closure is in the closed state,
wherein said disc resists axial movement along the
mooring line when said closure is in the
closed state with said disc face generally perpendicular to a
mooring line
axial axis; and

(c) means 32 for urging said closure from the open state to
the closed state.

The disc face of Raistakka is considered to be a smooth substantially
continuous surface with the exception of the marine
mooring line protruding therefrom, when
said closure is in the closed
state, wherein the vermin encounters said
disc face while crawling along the mooring line to help
prevent passage of the vermin beyond said disc face.

The area of disc 12 above end portion 20 is an area for placement of a pleasure craft
registration number.

Cord 30 is considered to be part of the means for urging the closure. Cord 30, at its
lower end, is oriented substantially parallel to the slot radial axis when in the position
shown in
figure 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raistakka in view of Ferland.

The disc of Raistakka is not disclosed as being constructed of a material with a mass density less than that of water such that it will float. Ferland makes his disc of plastic, plastic having a density less than that of water such that products made from plastic will float. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to make the disc of Raistakka of plastic similar to the plastic of Ferland. Motivation to do so is that the disc can be formed by molding, will be resistant to rust or corrosion, will be light, and will be cheap to make.

Ferland does not disclose making the disc of polyethylene, polypropylene, and polyurethane materials. However, such materials are well known plastics. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to use any one of the above materials to make the disc of Raistakka as each or all have properties which make them easy to mold. Also products made from them are cheap to make, light and resistant to corrosion.

6. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raistakka in view of Johnstone.

Raistakka does not disclose a lock to secure closure 13 in a closed state. Note lock 6 of Johnstone. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to provide in addition to urging means 32 of Raistakka a lock similar to 6 of Johnstone to hold closure 13 of Raistakka in the closed position. Motivation to do so is to make sure forces which can overcome urging means 32 do not lead to opening of the closure 13 such that rats can pass to the pleasure craft.

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raistakka and Johnstone as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of Ferland as combined with Raistakka for claim 2.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 19-24 are allowed.

9. Claims 10-12 and 13-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Patent 6,450,113, which is cited for the disclosure of a line vermin shield similar to that of the instant application, has the same inventor as the

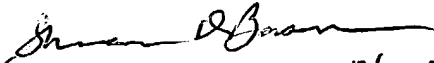
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instant application and has a patented date of September 17, 2002. The instant application was filed July 29, 2003.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sherman D. Basinger whose telephone number is 703-308-1139. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:00-2:30 ET).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Samuel J. Morano can be reached on 703-308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Sherman D. Basinger 7/20/04
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3617

sdb
7/20/04